

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-17 and added claims 18-25. Claims 18-25 are now pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Examiner Objections – Drawings

The Examiner objected to Figures 6, 7 and 8 for including reference characters not mentioned in the description. The Applicants have amended the specification to include reference characters included in Figures 7 and 8, and amended Figure 6 to delete unnecessary reference characters. A replacement drawing sheet with corrections to Figure 6 is enclosed. The Examiner's approval of the replacement drawing is respectfully requested.

3.) Examiner Objections – Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because of a typographical error. The Applicants submit herewith an amendment to the specification as suggested by the Examiner. The Examiner's consideration of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102 / §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 9-11 as being anticipated by Koz *et al.* (WO 93/165557); claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-17 as being anticipated by Tso *et al.* (WO 98/43177); claims 1 and 9 as being anticipated by Vetro, *et al.* (US 6,542,546); claims 1 and 9 as being anticipated by Hind *et al.* (US 6,715,129); claims 5 and 16 as being unpatentable over Koz; and claims 7 and 14 as being unpatentable over Tso. The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-17 and added claims 18-25. Each of claims 18-25 comprises the prior subject matter of claims 1 and 2, which was dependent from claim 1, and additional subject matter from pages 14-21 of the specification. Accordingly, the

Applicants will address the patentability of claims 18-25 in view the references over which the Examiner rejected claim 2, to wit: Koz and Tso.

Both Koz and Tso provide teachings related to transcoding. It does not appear, however, that those references, either alone or in combination, disclose the limitations of prior claims 1 and 2 combined with the additional limitations in new claims 18-25, to wit:

Claim 18: "wherein the converter is a transcoder and the converter hints are transcoding hints, and wherein the transcoder is informed of a quantization factor to use in order to achieve a desired bit rate or to re-encode at least a portion of the multimedia information at a bit rate that is a percentage of the one in which the information is initially coded"

Claim 19: "wherein said conversion hints comprise image cropping transcoding hints selected from the group consisting of:
information about a desired cropping location and shape;
whether it is preferable to provide a full version of the image with a reduced background quality; and
whether it is preferable to crop the image to only contain a specific region of interest"

Claim 20: "wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a bandwidth range that represents a range in bandwidth that a video sequence can be transcoded to"

Claim 21: "wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a computational complexity that indicates the amount of processing power that a conversion algorithm consumes"

- Claim 22: "wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including a quality range that indicates a measurement of how much a peak signal to noise ratio is lowered by performing transcoding"
- Claim 23: "wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints including motion vector predictors starting and ending frames for motion vector refinements"
- Claim 24: "wherein said conversion hints comprise video transcoding hints relating to frame rate reduction, including identification of key frames to be excluded from being dropped"
- Claim 25: "wherein said conversion hints comprise a video mixing transcoding hint associated with a portion of the video in which additional information can be displayed"

Therefore, whereas Koz or Tso fail to disclose those elements, they fail to anticipate any of claims 18-25.

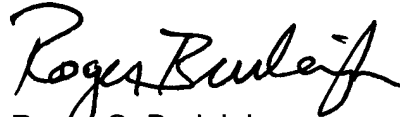
* * *

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 18-25.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 6.

Attachment: Drawing Replacement Sheet